



Beall Woods State Park
9285 Beall Woods Avenue
Mt. Carmel, IL 62863
618-298-2441

2016 Programs

Interpretive Brochures

Hiking

Photo Gallery

History of Beall Woods:

Located on the banks of the Wabash River in Southeastern Illinois, Beall Woods State Park attracts visitors from around the world wanting a glimpse of one of the few remaining tracts of old-growth forest found east of the Mississippi River.

The property now known as Beall Woods State Park (pronounced Bell) was under the ownership of the Beall family since the mid-1800s. While a working farm, almost half of the 635 acres consisted of forest that had been left relatively untouched by man. When Laura Beall, the last living heir, died without a will, the property went up for auction and was sold to a man who intended to cut the timber. Several individuals and organizations came together to prevent this from happening, a trial ensued and the land was purchased by the state of Illinois in 1965 by invoking the law of eminent domain against the unwilling seller. In 1966, 329 acres of old-growth forest was dedicated as the 14th Illinois Nature Preserve by the Illinois Nature Preserves Commission. With this action, a piece of Illinois' natural heritage was preserved so that future generations will have the opportunity to see an example of the magnificent forest that once grew along the Wabash River.



The Visitor Center, built in 2001, houses displays about the history of the property and the native flora and fauna found in the area. School groups, scouts, church groups, clubs, etc... utilize this facility and participate in educational programs throughout the year.



A wildlife viewing area is located behind the Visitor Center. Observers will most frequently see chickadees, nuthatches, woodpeckers, finches, cardinals, and hummingbirds at the feeding station, as well as, the “very healthy” squirrels. Bullfrogs are often seen sunning themselves near the pond while keeping a watchful eye for the resident black rat snake. On rarer occasions, whitetail deer, opossums, raccoons, and skunks visit the area.



Park Resources:

The IDNR's Education Section has resource trunks available for loan to formal and non-formal educators. Each resource trunk is a large plastic container filled with supplemental items to enhance your lessons

Trunks available at Beall Woods include:

- Aquatic Illinois
- Illinois Wild Mammals
- Illinois Fossils
- Illinois Birds
- Illinois Trees
- Illinois Prairies
- Illinois' State Symbols
- People & Animals of IL's Past
- Illinois Insects & Spiders
- Illinois' Invasive Species

Field Backpacks:

- Illinois' Amphibians and Reptiles
- Field Trip Pack

If you are interested in borrowing one of the resources mentioned above or would like to schedule a classroom visit / field trip with the park's interpreter, please call 618-298-2441.